

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

June 9 - 15, 2013 [Issue 5]

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Photo of the Week



Photo Credit: USFWS/Ravin Thomasson

Message from Monomoy

All for "commons" stand up and holler, 6400 and counting! The Monomoy family would like to thank all of the volunteers who came to help with tern census on the 12 and 13 June. We could not accomplish such a large task without your help! Inclement weather delayed the completion of the main colony, but refuge staff is hoping to complete the task next week. So stay tuned! Also the Monomoy family sends well wishes and a safe, speedy recovery to Berett Garbus. If you plan on visiting the refuge islands we ask that you please be mindful and respectful of posted areas as many of our breeding birds have cryptic colored chicks that can be very hard to see.

2013 Field Season Update

This is a weekly synopsis of biological activities on South Monomoy, North Monomoy, and Minimoy Islands. Information within this report is subject to change. For up to date information, please contact Refuge Staff.

Bird Sightings

American crow	Red-winged blackbird
Double-crested cormorant	Black-bellied plover
Dunlin	Willet
Ruddy turnstone	Laughing gull
Great black-backed gull	Herring gull
Northern harrier	Snowy owl
Short-billed dowitcher	Black-crowned night-heron
Great egret	Snowy egret
Thick-billed murre	Turkey vulture
Osprey	Black skimmer
Yellow-crowned night-heron	Glossy ibis

Bird Activity

Piping Plovers (PIPL)

Currently there are 17 active nests 5 of which are renests and 2 new nests. A total of 9 nests were lost to predation by crow species and/or common grackle and 3 nests were abandoned. The refuge is addressing these predation issues by implementing a variety of non-lethal predator management techniques including erecting predator exclosures. The North Monomoy Island PIPL was seen incubating and is estimated to hatch 26 June. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

On 9 June staff observed 14 chicks on North Monomoy Island from 5 nest sites. There are two more nests to hatch with our last hatching to occur on 4 July. 11 chicks have been seen so far on South Monomoy Island and there is only one more nest estimated to hatch on 4 July. On 9 June 2 chicks were seen on Minimoy. Staff believes there to be more chicks, but were unable to locate them at the time. If many of these chicks fledge, this may be the best productivity for AMOYs that we have had at the refuge in recent years. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Common Terns (COTE)

On 10 June the first COTE chick was seen by staff near camp. Likewise on 15 June staff banded 8 chicks from the productivity plots. Productivity monitoring showed more "starred" and "pipped" eggs and staff believes there will be more chicks to band in the upcoming week. Day stints and kleptoparasitism stints are being conducted as staff time allows. The main colony census began on 12 June and staff is hoping to complete this task next week. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Roseate Terns (ROST)

To date there are 4 active ROST nest in the colony. Day stints are attempting to locate more ROST pairs or nests. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Black Skimmers (BLSK)

No new information to report. BLSK have not been confirmed to be nesting on the refuge.

Least Terns (LETE)

Least tern census began 15 June on South Monomoy Island. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Upcoming Events

PIPL Census Window	June 1 – 9
HSC Tagging SMNY - Cancelled	June 7
HSC Tagging Morris Island - Cancelled	June 8
Tern Census	June 12-20
HSC Tagging NMNY	June 23

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JUNE 2013						
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